

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0224

DEPARTMENT PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: EAGR CH

SUBJECT: 1975 PRC GRAIN PRODUCTION AND RESERVES

1. ACCORDING TO ROMANIAN EMBASSY OFFICIAL, ROMANIAN TRADE DELEGATION WHICH VISITED PRC IN LATE JANUARY WAS GIVEN THE FOLLOWING FIGURES ON CHINESE GRAIN PRODUCTION AND RESERVES BY (THEN) VICE PREMIER HUA KUO-FENG. ACCORDING TO HUA, PRC GRAIN PRODUCTION IN 1975 TOTALED 280 MILLION TONS. CHINA'S "NATIONAL" GRAIN RESERVE IS NOW 40 MILLION TONS. HUA DID NOT GIVE A FIGURE FOR PRODUCTION IN 1974.

2. HUA SPECIFIED THAT THE 40 MILLION TON FIGURE WAS FOR THE "NATIONAL RESERVE" ONLY AND DID NOT INCLUDE RDIERVES BELONGING TO LOWER ENTITIES (E.G. COMMUNES, BRIGADES, TEAMS AND INDIVIDUAL FAMILIES). HE DID NOT GIVE A FIGURE FOR OTHER RESERVES HELD BELOW THE NATIONAL LEVEL.

3. OUR SOURCE UNDERSTANDS THAT GRAIN FIGURES WOULD INCLUDE "TUBERS" AT (PROBABLY) FIVE TO ONE RATION, BUT DEFINITELY IOULD NOT INCLUDE SOYBEANS. HOWEVER, SOURCE DID NOT RECALL THESE PARTICULAR POINTS HAVING

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BEEN DISCUSSED BY HUA.

4. COMMENT: PRODUCTION OF 280 MILLION TONS REPRESENTS A TWO PERCENT INCREASE OVER THE 274.9 MILLION TONS FIGURE FOR 1974 PRODUCTION ANNOUNCED BY THE CHINESE REPRESENTATIVE AT THE FAO CONFERENCE IN ROME IN NOVEMBER 1975. THIS LEVEL OF PRODUCTION, HOWEVER, WOULD BE TWELVE PERCENT ABOVE USDA ESTIMATES FOR CHINA'S GRAIN CROP IN 1973. SUCH A PERCENTAGE INCREASE IN 1975 WOULD APPEAR REASONABLE ESPECIALLY IF IT FOLLOWED A MUCH LARGER PERCENTAGE GAIN OVER PRODUCTION IN 1973.

5. STRICTLY PROTECT ROMANIAN SOURCE.
THAYER

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NNN

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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